

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously presented) A method of interpreting a pronoun, the method comprising:
  - A) recognizing a user input as containing a recognized pronoun;
  - B) comparing said recognized pronoun to pronoun information associating the historical noun references with pronoun number and gender information;
  - C) selecting one of said historical noun references as a function of said comparison between said recognized pronoun and said pronoun information; and
  - D) updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful selection of said historical noun reference.
2. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein in C), the selecting of one of said historical noun references is determined as a function of historical usage of a pronoun with respect to each of the noun references.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein said historical usage includes maintaining a count of correct usage events of a given pronoun with respect to a given noun reference.
4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein in C), said historical noun references are selected based upon a match of said recognized pronoun with at least one of said associated pronoun preferences.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein in B), said recognized pronoun is compared to at least one of said associated historical noun references in order from most recent to least recent in said historical listing.

6. (Previously presented) An apparatus for interpreting a pronoun comprising:

a recognizer adapted to recognize a user input as containing a recognized pronoun;

a historical listing of noun references and associated pronoun information associating the historical noun references with pronoun number and gender information;

means for comparing said recognized pronoun to said associated pronoun information;

means for selecting one of said noun references of said historical listing as a function of said comparison between said recognized pronoun and said associated pronoun information; and

means for updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful selection of one of said noun references.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising means for determining an associated pronoun preference as a function of historical usage of a pronoun with respect to the noun reference.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said historical listing includes a count of correct usage events of a given pronoun with respect to a given noun reference.

9. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said noun reference is selected based upon a match of said recognized pronoun with said associated pronoun information.

10. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said means for comparing is configured to compare each recognized pronoun to said pronoun information associated with said historical noun references in chronological order from most recent historical noun reference to least recent historical noun reference.

11. (Previously presented) A method of interpreting a pronoun in a voice user interface comprising:

- A) recognizing a user utterance as containing a recognized pronoun;
- B) comparing said recognized pronoun to pronoun information associating the historical noun references with pronoun number and gender information;
- C) selecting a record from a database corresponding to one of said historical noun references as a function of said comparison between said recognized pronoun and said pronoun information; and

D) updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful selection of said record.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 11 wherein D), the record is selected as a function of historical usage of a pronoun with respect to each of the noun references.

13 (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said historical usage includes a count of correct usage events of a given pronoun with respect to a given noun reference.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 11 wherein B) includes comparing said recognized pronoun to said pronoun information in chronological order from most recent to least recent.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 11 further comprising:

E) placing a telephone call to a telephone number in said selected record of said database.

16. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 11 further comprising:

[[F]]E) sending an electronic message to an address in said selected record of said database.

17. (Previously presented) An apparatus for interpreting a pronoun in a voice user interface comprising:

a recognizer adapted to recognize a user input as containing a recognized pronoun;

a historical listing of noun references and associated pronoun information associating the historical noun references with pronoun number and gender information ;

means for comparing said recognized pronoun to said pronoun information;

means for selecting a record from a database corresponding to one of said historical noun references as a function of said comparison between said recognized pronoun and said pronoun information; and

means for updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful selection of said historical noun reference.

18. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 17 further comprising:

means for determining an associated pronoun preference as a function of historical usage of a pronoun with respect to said noun reference.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said historical usage includes a count of correct usage events of a given pronoun with respect to a given noun reference.

20. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said means for comparing is configured to compare each recognized pronoun to said pronoun information associated with said historical noun references in chronological order from most recent historical noun reference to least recent historical noun reference.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17 further comprising:  
means for placing a telephone call to a telephone number in said selected record of said database.

22. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17 further comprising:  
means for sending an electronic message to an address in said selected record of said database.

23-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) A system providing for user interaction comprising:

a voice personal assistant adapted to presenting prompts to and receiving responses from a user;

said voice personal assistant including a recognizer adapted for recognizing responses that include pronouns, received from the user;

means for maintaining a historical list of noun references;

means for comparing a recognized pronoun to pronoun information associated with historical noun references, the pronoun information including pronoun number and gender information;

an application adapted for performing at least one function for said user;

means for selecting one of said historical noun references as a function of a comparison between a recognized pronoun with said pronoun information;

utilizing a selected one of said noun references in performing a function of said application; and

means for updating said pronoun information as a function of a successful selection of said historical noun reference.

40. (Previously presented) A system providing for user interaction comprising:

a voice personal assistant adapted to presenting prompts to and receiving responses from a user;

said voice personal assistant including a recognizer adapted for recognizing responses that include pronouns, received from the user;

a historical list of noun references;

a pronoun cross-reference associating pronoun information with at least one noun reference in said historical list the pronoun information including pronoun number and gender information;

a first subsystem adapted for selecting one of said noun references of said historical listing as a function of a comparison between a recognized pronoun with associated pronoun information in said pronoun cross-reference;

an application adapted for performing at least one function for said user utilizing a selected one of said noun references in performing a function of said application.; and

a second subsystem configured to update said pronoun information as a function of a successful selection of said historical noun reference.

41. (Canceled)